

**REMARKS**

In the Office Action mailed June 17, 2003, claims 1, 9, and 17 were objected to, and claims 1, 3-9, 12-17, 20-24, 27-31, and 34-38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hsiao (U.S. Patent No. 5,848,137) in view of Horiuchi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,272,530). The foregoing objections and rejections are respectfully traversed.

In response to the subject Office Action, claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12-15, 17, 20, 21, 23, 24, 27, 28, 30, 31, 34, 35, 36, and 37 are amended. Care has been exercised to avoid the introduction of new matter.

Claims 1, 9, and 17 are amended, taking the Examiner's comments into consideration. Withdrawal of the objections to claims 1, 9, and 17 is respectfully requested.

Hsiao discloses a device and method for processing multimedia messages. The Hsiao apparatus includes a processing device shown in Figure 1. A functional block diagram of the Hsiao apparatus is shown in Figure 2.

Horiuchi discloses a transmitter-receiver for electronic mail that provides convenience to a user receiving mail services from various mail service providers at different terminals and different places. More particularly, Horiuchi discloses a conversion result retaining unit 405 which stores the rule of interfaces of each mail spool of mail spool group 108. Further, Horiuchi discloses a table, as shown in Fig. 7, used to store the attribute or property of mail.

The combination of Hsiao and Horiuchi is a device and method for processing multimedia messages and includes a transmitter-receiver for electronic mail that provides convenience to a user receiving mail services from various mail service providers at different terminals and different places".

None of the foregoing references relied upon, either alone or in combination, discusses or suggests storing and managing a state indicating whether or not the electronic mail is downloaded to each of the terminal devices from a telephone (or mail managing apparatus), as in the present invention.

Each of independent claims 1, 7, 8, 9, 17, and 24 of the present application recites (using the recitation of claim 1 as an example) "a mail status memory storing each state of the electronic mail stored in the mail memory so as to correspond to each of the electronic devices, wherein each state stored in said status memory indicates whether or not the electronic mail is

down-loaded to each of the electronic devices from the telephone".

Independent claim 31 of the present application recites "a mail status memory storing each state of the electronic mail stored in the mail memory unit so as to correspond to each of the plurality of the electronic devices, wherein each state of the mail status memory unit indicates whether or not the electronic mail received by the electronic mail managing apparatus for each electronic device has been transmitted to the associated electronic device from the mail managing apparatus".

The above-mentioned dependent claims of the present application recite patentably distinguishing features of their own. For example, claim 3/1 recites "a process table storing a process to be applied to the electronic mail after the electronic mail is down-loaded to each of the terminal devices".

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejections is respectfully requested.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, the foregoing amendments to the claims do not place the application in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned to schedule an Interview prior to the mailing of an Office Action.


If there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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